



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

December Newsletter

SCSC Meetings

The November Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 10 a.m. in the DECAL board room. Meeting minutes are available [here](#). The 2014 Commission meeting calendar is available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 29, 2014 in the DECAL board room.

Training Opportunities

The following training sessions have been scheduled for state charters. To attend a training opportunity, please RSVP to lauren.wright@scsc.georgia.gov.

Governmental Accounting Training

*Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, Georgia
January 14-16, 2014*

This three day training session for **school business managers** will be led by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and will focus on the basics of governmental accounting as well as funding/reporting guidelines for state charters. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with state guidelines.

Charter Petitioner Boot Camp

*Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, Atlanta, Georgia
January 27, 2014*

This single day training session is for **interested charter petitioners**. SCSC staff will discuss ways in which stakeholders can develop a strong charter petition, focusing on school budget, curriculum and accountability, and community engagement.

A comprehensive list of 2013-2014 SCSC training opportunities is available [here](#). Please note this is a draft list to assist schools in planning and dates/topics are subject to change. For questions about training opportunities, please contact Lauren Wright, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, at lauren.wright@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2822.

Governance Training Reimbursement Grant

Thank you to everyone who attended the school governance training December 9-10 at Emory Conference Center! Meeting presentations are available on the SCSC website. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with state guidelines. Attendees should complete the [reimbursement grant application](#) and submit it to lauren.wright@scsc.georgia.gov by December 20.

Reminder! **All governing board members must receive annual school governance training** (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f)). Board members who did not attend the SCSC governance training should submit an [opt-out application](#) explaining how they will meet the requirement.

Reporting Deadlines

Please note the upcoming reporting items due in **December** and **January**:

Superintendent's Test Certification - Fall (deadline 1/31/14)

Data Collection - Teacher Class, Private School, Student Record- Data Cleanse,
Special Education - Transition Planning, Student Class - Rosters, Pre-ID

A full list of FY14 reporting items and associated deadlines can be found [here](#). For questions about reporting deadlines, please contact Terence Washington, SCSC Accountability Manager, at terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2837.

Funding and Networking Opportunities

SCSC staff have identified the following new grant opportunities that may be of benefit to state charters. A full list of SCSC-identified grant opportunities is available [here](#).

Charter School Start-up Grants

Walton Family Foundation

The Georgia Charter Schools Association is now accepting applications on behalf of the Walton Family Foundation (WFF) for the next round of WFF charter school start-up grants. The Walton Family Foundation funds charter schools serving the Atlanta Public School System that have a high population of economically disadvantaged students.

Interested groups must first complete an eligibility form, which can be found at:
<http://waltonfamilyfoundation.org/educationreform/eligibilityform>.

If a group is deemed eligible and is invited to apply, GCSA will be in contact with them and will provide access at that time to the application portal. For more information about the Charter School Startup Grant Program through The Walton Family Foundation, visit: <http://www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/grantees/public-charter-startup-grant-program>.

Deadline: February 28, 2014

7MM Technology Grant – APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Georgia Department of Education

This competitive grant award will allow districts to build infrastructure and acquire computing platforms. The grant awards will be based on the average cost to supply Firewall and CIPA filtering for the three single connection speed handoffs to Peachnet. These connections and average costs are 1Gbps (\$19,000), 10Gbps (\$82,000) and 40Gbps (\$197,000). All applications must be submitted to Chris Shealy in the Georgia Department of Education. Submissions must be sent by email to techgrant@doe.k12.ga.us.

Deadline: January 6, 2014

Contact: Chris Shealy, Georgia Department of Education Director of Technology Services
cshealy@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 657-3533

Parent Engagement Program Webinar

Georgia Department of Education

The Parent Engagement Program will hold its third webinar on **Monday, December 16, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.** Join Nate Schult, Parent Engagement Specialist as he delivers a professional development session entitled ***“Parent Reengagement to Improve High School Student Achievement.”*** Strong connections between the school and family traditionally fade as students face the challenges and questions of high school. Join this session to learn how Title I schools and families can rethink and refresh family engagement strategies to provide students with the support and leadership to successfully navigate this critical stage. Leave with ideas on how to create systematic change by learning new approaches to restart family engagement in your high school!

To join the session, please click on the link below within 30 minutes of the specified webinar start time:
<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.884931001A50DA69881D4457A6A1F0>

The session will also be recorded. You may access the recording 30 minutes after the session ends at:
<https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.9C3DDB740B9CD04FBD9478FD90B389&sid=2012003>

You can access the materials online ahead of time at: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Parent-Engagement-Program-Administrators.aspx>

2014 Georgia Family Engagement Conference

Georgia Department of Education

Join over **800 parents, educators and parent professionals** across the state at the 2014 Georgia Family Engagement Conference! Join colleagues from across the state and nation as we look to ***Building Connections: Sharing Responsibility to Impact Student Achievement and Success*** held in Athens, Georgia January 9 – 11, 2014. This conference being hosted in partnership by the Georgia Department of Education, Title I, Part A, Georgia PTA, and United Way is the perfect opportunity to learn of engaging ways and sound best practices for family engagement in education PreK - 12 for school, district, or community programs staff, administrators, and parent leaders!

Late Registration ends December 20th so register now not to miss out on this event that happens only once every two years! After late registration closes, only on-site registration will be available at an increased rate (and first-come, first-serve on conference materials) – so don't delay. Schools and Districts are also encouraged to use their Title I money to appropriate staff members and eligible parents to the conference.

Highlights Include:

- Featured Educator Speaker Maria Padres discussing the Academic Parent-Teacher Team Model

- State Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Members sharing what works in family engagement
- Well Regarded and Nationally Recognized Keynote Speakers Dr. Steven Constantino, Ms. Michele Brooks, and Mr. Aric Bostick
- Over 44 fascinating breakout sessions and learning opportunities covering ESEA Parental Involvement Compliance, Research - Based Best Practices for Family Engagement, Parent Leadership and Skills Building, and Student Support and Achievement Resources
- Family Engagement vendors and exhibitors from across the country

To register online or view the registration packet, keynote speaker bios, hotel information, a schedule of events, breakout sessions, and much more visit:

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Family-Engagement-Conference.aspx>

Contact: Michelle Sandroock, GaDOE Parent Engagement Program Manager
(404) 232 – 1148 or msandroock@doe.k12.ga.us

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